

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 10-15 and 17-19 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-9 have been canceled by this amendment.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note that in item [01] on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that the IDS filed August 20, 2010 is blank. Applicants, however, point the Examiner's attention to document "CA" (titled "Omnidirectional Visual Sensors for Navigation of Mobile Robots") under the "Other Documents" section on the Form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the IDS on August 20, 2010.

It is noted that the Examiner included a copy of the above-noted Form PTO/SB/08 form with the Office Action dated November 9, 2010, and indicated on the bottom of the form "all references considered except where lined through". Thus, it is Applicants' understanding that the document "CA" listed on the above-noted Form PTO/SB/08 has been considered by the Examiner, and that the indication in the Office Action that the IDS was blank was merely a typographical error.

Clarification is kindly requested if Applicants' above-noted understanding is incorrect.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Regarding claim 19, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that this claim is allowed (see item [14] on page 6 of the Office Action).

Regarding claim 15, Applicant note that the Examiner indicated in item [15] on page 6 of the Office Action that this claim would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under

35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph set forth in the Office Action, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to the above-noted indication that claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicants note that this appears to be a typographical error. In particular, Applicants note that there are no new rejections of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph in the present Office Action, and that item [05] on page 2 of the present Office Action indicates the “rejection of claim(s) 9, 14-16 set forth in the Office Action of 5/20/10 are withdrawn in view of the amendments of 8/20/10”).

Accordingly, claim 15 should be in condition for allowance upon the rewriting of this claim in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 9.

In this regard, Applicants note that by this amendment, claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 9, thereby placing claim 15 in condition for allowance. Claims 14 and 17, as well as withdrawn claims 10-13 and 18, have been amended so as to depend from allowable claim 15. Rejoinder and allowance of the withdrawn claims is kindly requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims in the present application are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is kindly requested.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 9, 14 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iddan (US 2004/0249247) in view of Heung-Yeung Shum and R. Szeliski (“Construction

and Refinement of Panoramic Mosaics with Global and Local Alignment”, Proc. Int’l Conf. Computer Vision, pp. 953-958, 1998).

Regarding claims 1 and 9, as noted above, these claims have been canceled by the present amendment.

Regarding claims 14 and 17, as noted above, these claims have been amended so as to depend from allowable claim 15, and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Yasushi YAGI et al.

/Kenneth W. Fields/

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